

Stream Team Annual Report

2011

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation



The Hensleys (Team 2860) and the Stewarts (Team 288) had a blast cleaning up Big River. When the canoes were full, they piled tires on an inner tube and floated them to shore!

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

The Stream Team Program continued to grow and expand its role of helping to ensuring healthy and sustainable Missouri stream resources in 2011. The growing involvement of citizen volunteers in stream conservation resulted in the formation of 196 new Stream Teams during 2011. Their passion and enthusiasm are inspiring. Teams logged more than 202,900 hours of volunteer time in 2011. While the number of volunteers and the time they spent protecting our waterways increased, the amount of trash they found has decreased from years past, demonstrating that their efforts are making a difference. More people are spending more time on the river and finding less trash!

Teams have been as active as ever and their accomplishments continue to impress. Here's a look at some of last year's activities:

- ◆ Over \$4.4 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated to our streams.
- ◆ Over 350,000 bags provided by the Stash-Your-Trash Program were used in litter pickups, by people floating on streams, and during related events.

More and more, our groups are working together and helping each other reach their goals. Three new Stream Team Associations were formed in 2011 and, for the first time, an Association developed and hosted a Stream Team Academy workshop. The motivated spirit of our volunteers is contagious!

- ◆ 573 tons of trash were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 948 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- ◆ 17,759 trees were planted.
- ◆ 228 storm drains were stenciled.
- ◆ 93 habitat improvement projects were completed.



Forsyth Middle School students (Team 4207) learned that life exists at the bottom of the stream in Forest Park. Kids, creeks, and critters . . . always a winning combination!



Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

Dedication & Enthusiasm

Water Quality Monitoring

The Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) portion of the Stream Team Program educates citizens about how streams function while providing the tools to collect valuable data on our aquatic resources. It is a tiered approach offering multiple levels of training. This allows individuals to participate at the level at which they are comfortable, while also providing different degrees of data quality.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	10	212
Level 1	4	39
Level 2	7	43
Level 2 Validation	7	36
Aquatic Entomology	1	9
Total	29	339

In 2010, several adjustments were made to the way trainings were scheduled and the requirements needed to advance through those training levels. These small steps have saved the Program a significant amount of funds, allowing us to continue to meet the needs of our dedicated volunteers while also reducing budgets.

These requirements may have contributed to a slight decline in the number of individuals attending Level 1 workshops in 2011. However, the volunteers that did make the effort to go the extra mile are active and submitting quality data, and that was our goal!

Data submitted by individuals that have attended the Introductory and Level

1 trainings are used as screening data to inform and educate individuals about the condition of our streams, gather baseline information, locate emerging problems, and have been used to supplement data from other agencies.

Once a volunteer completes a Level 2 Quality Assurance training we have higher confidence in their methods, techniques, and commitment. Our confidence in the data are elevated and they are often used to supplement agency data. These data may be utilized to evaluate best management practices and as supplemental data for planning and permitting. They are also included in the bi-annual 305(b) Report to EPA.

Due to the increase in data use, the Program now requires Level 2 and 3 monitors to have their equipment checked at least once every three years. This ensures that we continue to maintain quality assurance and confidence in the data collected for all data users.

This can be done at one of our regularly scheduled Level 2 trainings, or one of the new VWQM Validation trainings. Validation trainings are 2½ hour evening sessions, and are critical to increasing the volunteers' confidence in their own abilities. They receive new reagents and ensure their kits are functioning properly.

Stream Team Awards

Each year Stream Teams or individuals are selected to receive the Stream Team Ambassador Award. Outstanding

volunteers among three regions of the state as well as an overall Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer are selected based on their accomplishments in the Program's three goal areas of education, stewardship, and advocacy. The recipients for 2011 were:

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- **Debbie Miller**
Team 3119–Kabul Waterdogs
- **Danella Haake**
Team 2760–Litzinger Road Ecology Center
Team 3189–The Danella Haake Team
Team 3745–River Des Peres Watershed Coalition
- **Hydie Middaugh**
Team 3757–South Grand Watershed Association
Team 4023–Amarugia Ridge Runners
- **Lisa Adams**
Team 3681–Missouri American Water Team

Last year also marked a historic milestone as the Program honored its first Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Martin “Marty” F. King. The Stream Team Lifetime Achievement Award was created to honor individuals who have made substantial and lasting contributions to the Missouri Stream Team Program and the stream resources of the state through their outstanding acts and dedicated service over an extended period.

For over 20 years, Marty King has promoted the Stream Team Program in words and action. Marty chaired the Rivers and Streams committee with the Conservation Federation of Missouri in 1989, when the Stream Team Program was initiated. His passion for the fledgling Program led him to move from vision to action when he approached a



In memory of Wayne Maresch, Quality Assurance Officer for the Stream Team Program, who passed away November 20, 2011.

Goodbye, Wayne . . . we'll keep working on getting boots on the ground. Thanks for everything you contributed to the Stream Team Program!

2011 Fast Facts

During 2011, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **573** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **17,759** trees
- ◆ stenciled **228** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **948** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **50** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **160** educational events
- ◆ reported **202,903** total volunteer hours

Respect

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	27	33	23 agreements	\$719.07
Advocacy	44	92	92 hours	\$2,004.68
Agency Project Participation	23	65	2 events	\$1,416.35
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	17	41	13 articles	\$893.39
Association Activities	486	2,521	2,521 hours	\$54,932.59
Award Winners	6	11	2 awards	\$239.69
Display at Fairs, etc.	522	4,834	30 events	\$105,332.86
Educational Projects	2,716	11,443	160 events	\$249,342.97
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	6	9	4 trips	\$196.11
GPS Mapping	19	19	2 trips	\$414.01
Grant Projects	17	175	11 projects	\$3,813.25
Habitat Improvement	574	2,235	93 projects	\$48,700.65
Inventory	66	161	6 inventories	\$3,508.19
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	24	28	36 letters	\$610.12
Litter Pickups	26,808	151,389	573 tons of trash	\$3,298,766.31
Media Contacts	40	113	26 interviews	\$2,462.27
Meetings (held or attended)	2,225	5,438	2,088 attendees	\$118,494.02
Mentoring	100	276	30 projects	\$6,014.04
Monofilament Recycling Project	44	243	164 ounces	\$5,294.97
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	543	3,652	34 projects	\$79,577.08
Planted Trees	833	3,420	17,759 trees	\$74,521.80
Pre-activity Planning	354	1,442	173 events	\$31,421.18
Photo Point Monitoring	30	44	79 photos	\$958.76
Presentations to Other Groups	238	270	50 presentations	\$5,883.30
Recruitment (new members)	102	203	144 people	\$4,423.37
River Observation (possible pollution event)	1	48	1 project	\$1,045.92
Stream Access Maintenance	48	128	24 events	\$2,789.12
Storm Drain Stenciling	81	161	228 drains	\$3,508.19
Streambank Stabilization Projects	21	63	1 event	\$1,372.77
Watershed Mapping	30	45	1 trips	\$980.55
Workshops (attended or conducted)	522	4,201	522 attendees	\$91,539.79
Water Quality Monitoring	3,698	10,058	948 trips	\$219,163.82
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	30	42	14 trips	\$915.18
Totals	40,295	202,903		\$4,421,256.37

*\$21.79/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fund-raising, etc.



Marty King received the first Stream Team Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations!

group of fly anglers with a prototype brochure and convinced them to become the first Missouri Stream Team.

Over the last 20 years Marty has attended numerous public forums concerning the rivers and streams of Missouri to act as a voice for the resources that cannot speak for themselves. He has participated in every Rivers and Streams Conference held since 1988. Marty has also traveled far and wide to attend numerous Stream Team Academy classes and Water Quality Monitoring trainings. Marty is trained to Level 2 in the VWQM portion of the Program.

Anytime a need arose for someone to act as an ambassador for the Stream Team Program, Marty has always stepped up

to provide leadership or gentle guidance in his quiet, unassuming way.

**Over
\$4.4
million!**

22-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ♣ collected **8,882.37** tons of trash
- ♣ planted **242,510** trees
- ♣ stenciled **13,357** storm drains
- ♣ conducted **23,263** water monitoring trips
- ♣ given **2,755** presentations to other groups
- ♣ completed **4,028** educational events
- ♣ reported **1,978,537** total volunteer hours



John Meyer and Cub Scout Pack 4631 (Stream Team 1768) had a lot of fun gathering a great collection of trash treasures. Good job!

Accomplishment

Teams and Public Lands

Stream Teams have always been great partners for conservation success on public land. The Adopt-An-Access (AAA) Program began in 2001, making 2011 its ten-year anniversary.

Teams participating in the AAA Program sign an agreement with the Area Managers of their adopted access and regularly perform tasks that may include trash pickup, mowing, or general area beautification. Eighty-three public

accesses have been adopted since 2001, and forty-three of those adoptions are active today. One access on the Jacks Fork has been adopted by the same volunteers since the beginning of the Program, and six others have been going strong since 2002. This dedication proves an invaluable resource to local agency staff. In 2011, over 430 volunteers logged more than 1,400 hours and collected 12.8 tons of trash from our public accesses.

What's To Come . . .

Once again another year has almost come and gone and Teams and Program staff have been as busy as ever in 2012. Staff have continued work updating our database system and new reporting forms are already rolling out. Stream Team and the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition also met the initial goal of selling 200 Stream Team license plates and we look forward

to them going into production in the coming months. It is an exciting time in the Stream Team community. As always, we are planning more workshops and regional meetings to keep up with the growing interests of our dedicated volunteers.

Thank you to everyone for your continued hard work and, as always, we hope to see you on the river!

◆ Education ◆ Stewardship ◆ Advocacy ◆



Back row from left: Naomi Gebo (MDC), Anna Nowack (DNR), Amy Meier (MDC), Tyler Bax (MDC)
Front row: Sherry Fischer (MDC), Chris Riggert (MDC), Randy Sarver (DNR), Kat Lackman (MDC), Mark Van Patten (MDC)
Not pictured: Susan Higgins (DNR)

Questions?

Please contact us at:

- ◆ Missouri Stream Team
PO Box 180
Jefferson City MO 65102
- ◆ 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)
- ◆ streamteam@mdc.mo.gov
- ◆ streamteam@dnr.mo.gov
- ◆ www.mostreamteam.org



Roll that refrigerator! Firefighters and church volunteers joined forces to eliminate appliances from their creek. Thanks to Tim Wiley of Stream Team 1857 for organizing the event.



Several Ozark Fly Fishers (Stream Team 31) sampled macroinvertebrates at Mill Creek in Phelps County.



Members from Fulton Middle School (Team 3028) are working hard to keep Stinson Creek clean. Keep up the good work!



The combined Storm Drain Stenciling project of Team 4096 (Wentzville Crew) and Team 3195 (Barat Academy students) was a huge success!



MSTWC

MISSOURI STREAM TEAM WATERSHED COALITION

Annual Report 2011

A Summary of MSTWC Activities

The Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition (MSTWC) is a not-for-profit organization made up of representatives from Stream Team Associations throughout the state. Associations are groups of Stream Teams within watersheds who work together. The Coalition promotes and supports watershed-based Stream Team Associations and the Stream Team Program, by serving as a resource for information, education, stewardship, and advocacy; facilitating communication among Associations; and serving as a united voice for healthy watersheds in Missouri. Currently, there are 16 Stream Team Associations across the state.



In 2011, MSTWC made great strides toward accomplishing the actions developed in our strategic plan that have assisted Stream Teams, Stream Team Associations, and our waterways statewide.

Check out some of the ripples we made!

Education and Outreach

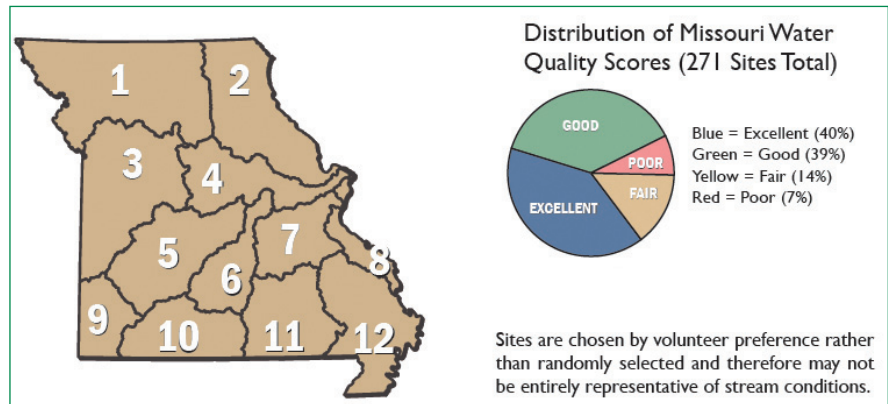
MSTWC works to provide educational tools and resources to the Stream Team Program, Stream Team Associations, and Stream Team members.

- Continued to support an electronic e-mail system that can be utilized by Stream Team Program staff and MSTWC, allowing Stream Team members to receive information via e-mail.
- Provided 14 Non-Point Source educational displays for Stream Team Associations and statewide usage by Stream Team staff.

Technical

MSTWC acts as a technical resource for Stream Team members and the Stream Team Program.

- ◆ Published *The State of Missouri's Streams: Summary of Invertebrate Data 1993 – 2010*. This was the first report to analyze and interpret the Stream Team volunteer data. To read the report visit www.mstwc.org.
- ◆ Secured funds to assist Ozarks Water Watchers Stream Team Association in conducting the first visual assessment of Bull Creek and its tributaries in southwest Missouri.
- ◆ Served as technical stakeholder on issues related to water resource management and protection.



Sustainable Funding

MSTWC is working to establish sustainable funding. This funding will be utilized to support the operational expenses of the organization. It is hoped that a sustainable funding revenue stream will also support the Stream Team Associations and Stream Team Program.

- ◆ The Missouri Stream Team License Plate was approved and became available to the public! Order yours now by visiting www.mstwc.org.
- ◆ Awarded over \$7,000.00 to our Stream Team Associations through the Pat Jones Stream Team Association Grant Program.
- ◆ Assisted Stream Teams in properly disposing of over 1,400 tires through the Chuck & Sharon Tryon Revolving Tire Fund which financially assists Stream Teams in disposing of waste tires collected during cleanup events.



Advocacy

MSTWC is working to speak out on issues that affect the quality of our state's water resources. MSTWC works to provide educational information to Stream Team members; comment to agencies, legislators, or other government officials on specific issues; and encourages Stream Team members to voice their concerns when issues arise.

- ◆ Encouraged advocacy in our Stream Team community through "Issue Alerts" that are disseminated electronically.
- ◆ Assisted in the effort to establish a new state slogan: "The Great Rivers State"

To learn more about MSTWC, please visit www.mstwc.org.